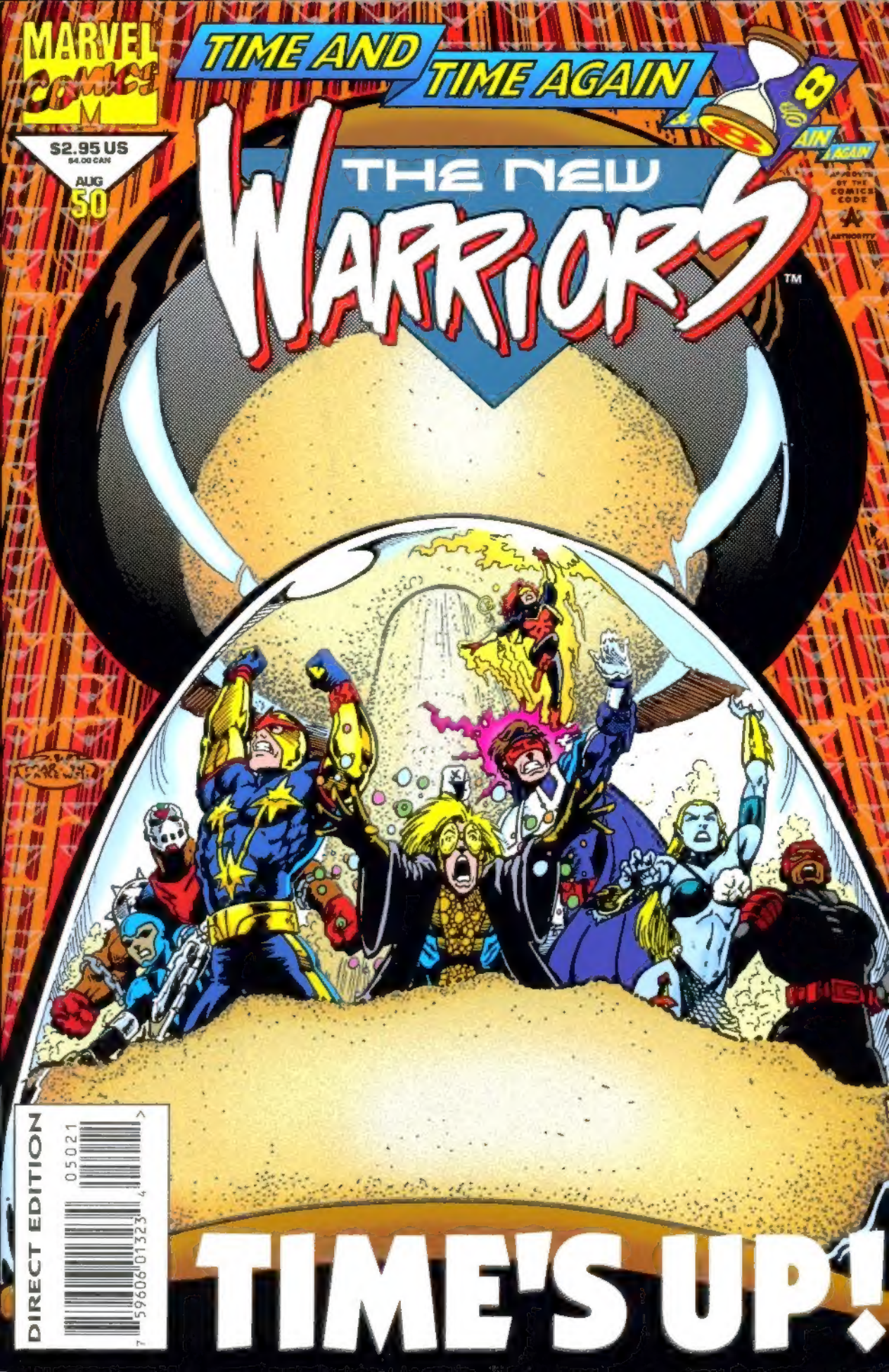
MARVEL COMICS
TIME AND TIME AGAIN
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THE NEW WARRIORS
DIRECT EDITION
TIME'S UP!

The Warriors
Silhouette
Speedball
Rage
Firestar
Justice
Kymaera
Nova
OUR STORY SO FAR: IN A STRUGGLE FOR POWER, THE IMMORTAL BEING KNOWN AS THE SPHINX REGAINED THE INFINITE ENERGIES OF THE KA FROM THE WOMAN WHO HAD LOVED HIM THROUGH ALL TIME. AS A PREVENTATIVE MEASURE AND TO DEMONSTRATE HIS NEWFOUND MIGHT, THE SPHINX EXILED THE YOUNG HEROES KNOWN AS THE NEW WARRIORS TO DIFFERENT POINTS IN TIME AND SPACE. TO RESCUE THEIR FRIENDS, A BAND OF NEW NEW WARRIORS WERE ASSEMBLED. HAVING INFILTRATED THE SPHINX'S ALTERED CAIRO CITADEL, THEY HAVE MANAGED TO RECOVER ONE OF THEIR MISSING FRIENDS...
YOUR!
WILL THIS IRONIC, ETERNAL CAROUSEL OF FATE NEVER STOP TURNING?!
The New Warriors
Darkhawk
Dagger
Hindsight Lad
Turbo
Power Pax
Bandit

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OR, BETTER STILL, MY YOUNG FESTERING CANCER--
TILL DEATH DO US PART!
RICH RIDER FLIES LIKE LIGHTNING THROUGH THE MASSIVE CHAMBER INSIDE THE SPHINX'S PYRAMID KATHEDRAL--
--SIZING UP THE SITUATION INSTANTLY.
HE RECOGNIZES MOST OF THE FACES OF THE YOUNG HEROES WHO CAME HERE TO RESCUE HIM AND THE OTHER WARRIORS--
--AND REALIZES THAT THE WOMAN STRUGGLING TO RISE AT THE SPHINX'S FEET IS SOMEONE VAGUELY FAMILIAR TO HIM--
--SOMEONE HE HAD SEEN IN A DREAM... OR A NIGHTMARE... OF ANOTHER TIME.

AND UNDERSTANDING HOW DESPERATE THIS SITUATION IS, NOVA RESPONDS WITH IMMEDIATE ACTION!
IF THAT'S HOW IT'S GONNA BE, BLOCKHEAD, THEN THAT'S COOL WITH ME!!
SO, HAS THE GNAT SUDDENLY FOUND THE STING OF THE BEE?
SO, HAS YOUR FOOT FOUND ITS WAY INTO YOUR MOUTH?
AN EXPLOSIVE GRAVIMETRIC PULSE ERUPTS FROM NOVA'S ENERGIZED BODY--
SHAKREEEEEESHOOW
--ENGULFING THE SURPRISED SPHINX, WASHING HIM AWAY LIKE A PIECE OF DRIFTWOOD ON THE OCEAN CURRENTS!
HE KNEW THAT HIS YOUNG OPPONENT HAD BECOME MORE POWERFUL...

... BUT HE NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF THE KA ENERGY!
AND IT ISN'T, OF COURSE, BUT TO SURPRISE A BEING WHO HAS LIVED FOR SO LONG--
--IS TO COMMAND HIS RESPECT.
YOU DO YOURSELF, AND THE UNIFORM YOU WEAR, PROUD, RICHARD.
TO HAVE ENDURED THE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL TRAVAILS OF THE ALTERNATE TIMELINE I CONSIGNED YOU TO--
--AND TO COME BACK A BETTER PERSON THAN THE ONE WHO LEFT--
--THAT IS THE TRUE MARK OF A MAN...OF A HERO.
WHO THE $%!@ ARE YOU TO TALK ABOUT THAT?!
WHAT THE $%!@ DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BEING A HERO?!
MORE THAN YOU MIGHT REALIZE.
THROUGHOUT MY SEVERAL LIFETIMES--
--I HAVE PLAYED THE PART OF HERO AND VILLAIN--
--ENOUGH TO KNOW--
--THAT THE PETTY CONSTRAINTS OF BOTH ARE BENEATH MY NEEDS.
SO WHAT IS IT YOU "NEED"?
I NEED TO SEE YOU DEAD, NOVA!!

AND AS THE SPHINX DOES HIS LEVEL BEST TO FULFILL HIS DESIRES, INSIDE THE KATHEDRAL, THE OTHERS RISE...
WE HAVE TO GET OUTSIDE TO HELP NOVA!
EASY, MS. KARIM.
I DO NOT NEED TO BE PAMPERED, DAGGER.
POWERPAX, HOLD YOUR GROUND!
YOUR ABILITIES TO WIELD THE FUNDAMENTAL FORCES OF PHYSICS CAN BE PUT TO BETTER USE RIGHT HERE!
THE ROAD TO THE SPHINX'S DEFEAT STILL LIES WITH THE RETRIEVAL OF YOUR TIME-LOST FRIENDS!
AND AS NOVA RETURNED OF HIS OWN ABILITIES, ONCE WE PROVIDED THE DOORWAY THROUGH THE SPHINX'S CROSS-CHRONAL MONITOR--
--SO TOO, CAN WE BRING BACK THE OTHERS!
GURMM PHATH HIK
UHM... MERVET... UHM, MS. KARIM... LADY SPHINX, MA'AM...
...'ZACTLY WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND..?
WE NEED TO AGAIN ACTIVATE THE TIMELINE SCANNING DEVICE--
--WHICH THE SPHINX USES TO MONITOR THE BREADTH AND SPAN OF HISTORY--
--TO PROPERLY LOCATE THE WARRIORS.
AND YOU NEED OUR COMBINED POWERS TO JUICE THE EQUIPMENT--
--JUST LIKE WE DID TO OPEN THE DOOR FOR NOVA?
NOT TO SOUND LIKE THE PERPETUAL DEFEATIST, BUT NOVA FOUND US!
I MEAN, 'ALL OF TIME' IS KIND OF A TOUGH HAYSTACK TO WADE THROUGH--
--HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND SEVEN MISSING NEEDLES IN THAT?
NO FACETIOUSNESS INTENDED WHEN I SAY THIS, DARKHAWK--
--BUT THE ANSWER IS... VERY CAREFULLY!

OUR PERSEVERANCE, COMBINED WITH OUR AWARENESS--
--THAT THE SPHINX HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED, TIME AND AGAIN--
--A MEANS UNTO WHICH HE CAN BE DEFEATED!
YEAH, SO WHY DON'T WE JUST GO OUT THERE AND TELL NOVA THAT?
SELL IT TO MONTELOPRAH RAPHAEL!
COME ON, PEOPLE, LET'S NOT GRASP AT STRAWS!
THE SPHINX ISN'T GOING TO JUST GIVE UP!
NO, HE IS NOT.
BUT ULTIMATELY, HE WILL BE FORCED TO FACE THE INEVITABLE FUTILITY OF HIS POWER-LUST--
ARE YOU SAYING, MS. KARIM, THAT HE HAS A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE--
--THAT PERPETUATES A WISH-FULFILLMENT CYCLE--
--IN WHICH HE DESIRES TO FAIL IN HIS ENDEAVORS?
--AND ALL OF YOU WARRIORS--NEW AND OLD ALIKE--ARE GOING TO BE THE CATALYSTS FOR THAT REALIZATION!

OF COURSE, WE HAD BEST ACCOMPLISH ALL OF THIS RATHER QUICKLY--
--OR NOVA WON'T SURVIVE TO SEE OUR VICTORY!
SHAKOOM SHAKOOM
YOU ARE BUT A SPECK OF DIRT ON THE TAPESTRY OF TIME, RICHARD!
SO WHY WILL YOU NOT SIMPLY ALLOW ME TO PULL YOU OFF OF IT?
AND WHAT DOES KILLIN' ME SOLVE, GAZOO?
FOR THAT MATTER, WHAT DOES HAVING ALL OF THE POWER YOU GOT MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOU?
IT IS A QUEST FOR THE SAKE OF THE QUEST!
WHAT MORE IS LEFT FOR ME, WHO HAS LIVED THROUGH THE SPAN OF MILLENNIUM?!
IT AIN'T ENOUGH--TO HINGE A THOUSAND LIFETIMES ON!
GRRRMM
I WANTED MY POWER BACK, TOO--IT WAS ALL THAT FUELED ME--
--BUT GETTIN' IT BACK SHOWED IT DIDN'T REALLY MATTER!
WHAT DOES IS FAMILY AND FRIENDS--RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT--THAT'S WHAT FUELS ME!

I CANNOT ALLOW THOSE THINGS TO CONCERN ME!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
YOUR ENTIRE LIVES--FILLED AS THEY ARE WITH LOVE AND SORROW AND MADNESS AND JOY--
--ARE BUT THE BLINKING OF AN EYE TO ME!!
AND YOUR WORDS HERE TODAY, YOUR VALOR--AND ULTIMATELY, YOUR DEATH--
--WILL MEAN NOTHING TO ME WHEN YOUR BONES ARE BUT DUST IN THE GROUND!!
CAN YOU COMPREHEND THAT?
CAN YOU SEE WHY YOUR LIFE--ALL LIVES--
--MUST HAVE NO RELEVANCE TO MINE?

"BECAUSE NOTHING YOU DO--OR SAY--MATTERS WHEN SEEN THROUGH EYES WHICH SEE ALL!"
INSIDE THE KATHEDRAL...
IT'S WORKING!
THE ENERGY FROM MY AMULET, COMBINED WITH POWERPAX'S ENERGIZER BLASTS AND DAGGER'S INNER LIGHT--
--HAS FRIED UP THE TIME SCREEN!
THAT'S GREAT, HUH?
BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
IT'S UP TO MERYET TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE!
AND I AM TRYING, CHILD!
THIS HELMET PROVIDED THE SPHINX WITH A NEUROLOGICAL LINK TO THE CHRONAL-MONITOR--
--WHICH ALLOWED HIM TO MONITOR THE RAPID GLIMMERS OF TIME WITHOUT NEEDING TO CONCENTRATE ON THEM--
--WHICH I CAN USE TO PREVENT MY BRAIN FROM BEING OVERLOADED BY THE BARRAGE OF MENTAL STIMULI!
BUT PERHAPS THE KEY TO FINDING YOUR FRIENDS IN THE TIMESTREAM--
WILL
JUMP
OUT?

SPEEDBALL?
HOW DID YOUR MIND ACCESS THAT ONE PARTICULAR IMAGE IN ALL OF THE TIMESTREAM?
FOR THAT MATTER, WHY?
I MEAN IT IS SPEEDBALL, AFTER ALL.
A BEING COMPRISED OF KINETIC ENERGY-- OF PERPETUAL MOTION, CORRECT?
YEAH, BUT ALL HE DOES IS BOUNCE!
UHM... NOT THAT IS A BAD POWER OR ANYTHING
NO, POWER-PAX-- I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT MS. KARIM IS GETTING AT
WHAT IS TIME, BUT MOVEMENT?
THE ROTATION OF THE PLANET CREATES DAYS, THE PASSAGES AROUND THE SUN CREATE YEARS.
ALL OF TIME IS MEASURED BY OUR FORWARD MOVEMENT THROUGH THIS PLANE OF REALITY
AND IF SPEEDY EMBODIES THAT MOVEMENT BY EXISTING AS A BEING OF KINETIC ENERGY...
THEN THE INSTANTS IN WHICH ALL OF THE OTHER WARRIORS WERE TAKEN FROM THE HERE AND NOW--
--EXISTS WITHIN HIS FORM!
IN ORDER FOR HIM TO ACCESS THAT INFORMATION THOUGH, WE MUST FIND A MEANS TO BRING HIM BACK TO THIS DIMENSIONAL PLANE--
--AND THAT WILL ONCE AGAIN REQUIRE THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF YOU THREE!
F NOVA EVEN SURVIVES OUT THERE, HE'S GOING TO BE PRETTY PEEVED

THAT'S WHERE I COME IN, KID.
MY BIOELECTRIC POWERS'RE PRETTY USELESS WITH WHAT YOU GUYS'RE DOIN' IN HERE --
--BUT IF THERE'S ONE THING BANDIT CAN DO --
--IS KICK SOME BUTT WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE KICKED!
CHAZZKK!
COURSE, THAT'S NOT TAKIN' INTO ACCOUNT THAT THEY'RE GONNA BE PRETTY USELESS OUT HERE, TOO.
STILL, COULDN'T JUST STAND AROUND LIKE A FIFTH WHEEL WHEN ONE OF THE PEOPLE THEY'RE TRYIN' T'RESCUE IS THE WOMAN I LOVE!
AN' IF I CAN'T HELP SILHOUETTE IN THERE --
--MIGHT AS WELL TRY OUT HERE, RIGHT?!
THIPP
THIPP
THIPP

"THOUGH WHAT GETTIN' MYSELF KILLED IS GONNA DO FOR SIL IS STILL SOMETHIN' I AIN'T QUITE FIGURED OUT!"

POWERPAX CAN'T KEEP PUMPING OUT THAT MUCH ENERGY, MERYET!

I'M OKAY, DAGGER--I'LL KEEP FUELING THE MACHINE UNTIL SPEEDBALL CAN MAKE HIS WAY TO THE OPEN MONITOR DOORWAY!

WE'VE ISOLATED HIS DIMENSIONAL LOCATION--

SHLURRPTH

--AND SOMETHING IS COMING OUT NOW!

BUT IT'S ALL UNDEFINED, ILL-FORMED KINETIC ENERGY!

HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND SPEEDBALL INSIDE ALL OF THAT?

NO, HINDY--YOU DON'T SEEM TO GET IT--

THOSE JELLO-MARBLES SPILLING OUT OF THE PORTAL--THAT IS SPEEDY!

AND THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE LADY WANTED ME TO STAY.

I CAN ERECT A FORCEFIELD FROM MY AMULET TO CONTAIN ALL OF THAT ENERGY--

SFWATHSCHLOOPTH

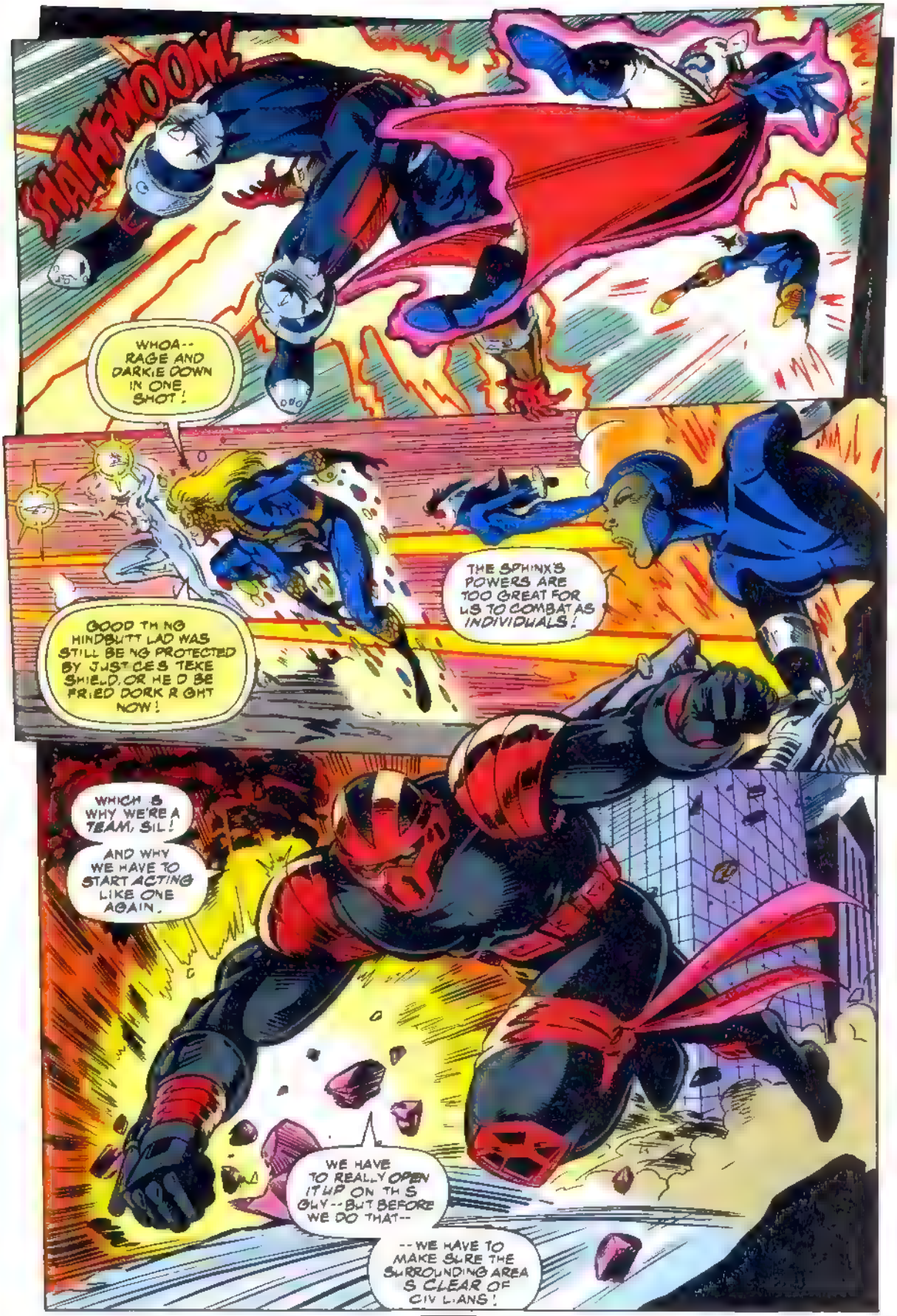
I GOT HIM-- BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO TURN HIM BACK INTO THE BOUNCING BUNDLE OF STUPIDITY WE ALL HATE TO LOVE?
DAGGER-- HE NEEDS TO BE SEARED BY THE LIGHT OF TRUTH--
-- A SHOCK OF AWARE-NESS THAT WILL HELP HIM REVERT TO HIS TRUE FORM!
JUST WHAT MY LIGHT-POWERS WERE MADE FOR--!
SHEEEKTH-
..IT'S WORKING-- I THINK..
.. THE KINETIC ENERGY IS TAKING FORM--
DARKHAWK-- RELEASE YOUR FORCEFIELD--
POP!
JAAAANE-- STOP THIS CRAZY THING--!
I THINK I'M GONNA BLOW CHUNKS

ROBBIE! ARE YOU OKAY, PAL?
UHM... YEAH, SURE CARL... JUST FINE...
CARLTON
UHM... SO... WHAT'S NEW?
ALL OF THE WARRIORS WERE TRANSPORTED TO DIFFERENT POINTS IN TIME BY THE SPHINX--
--EXCEPT YOU, BECAUSE WE FIGURED OUT THAT IN SOME WAYS, YOU REPRESENT ALL TIME!
WELL, YOU BETTER REMEMBER PRETTY QUICK, SPEEDY--
--'CAUSE WE NEED YOU TO FIND AND RESCUE THE OTHER WARRIORS!
YOUR ENTIRE BODY IS MADE OF ISOLATED ELEMENTS OF MOVEMENT--
--HAVE TO LOOK WITHIN YOURSELF-- AND FIND EACH INSTANT IN WHICH A WARRIOR WAS TRANSPORTED AWAY!
I DO? I WAS--IN THE KINETIC DIMENSION--I MEAN. I WAS THE ENTIRE DIMENSION...
...I LEARNED SOMETHING-- ABOUT MYSELF-- BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT NOW...
WHY IS IT ALWAYS UP TO ME TO SAVE THE DAY?
"'CAUSE I GUARANTEE THIS IS GONNA BE ONE HECKUVA SHOW!"
ZZZKKKTTT
YEAH--? I'M SURE. ANYONE REMEMBER TO BRING THE POPCORN--?

GRMMRRR
OUWAAOUWAA
A VERY DARING ATTEMPT, MY YOUNG FOE
I APPLAUD YOUR TENACITY, IF NOT YOUR INTELLIGENCE
THOUGH WHY YOU WOULD RISK YOUR LIFE, KNOWING YOUR ABILITIES CAN NOT HOPE TO AFFECT ME, IS QUITE BEYOND MY SCOPE OF COMPREHENSION
BEECUZZZ I WANNND TOOO HELP BILL-O-EDO--
ALWAYS FOR THE LOVE OF SOMETHING, ISN'T IT? FOOL!!
YOU ARE ALL FOOLS! FOR LOVE..
AND YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND, T'MEWORN ONE!
FOR LOVE WE ARE WILLING TO FIGHT--FOR LOVE WE ARE WILLING TO LIVE!
SHAKOOM!!

AND ULTIMATELY, IF NEED BE, FOR LOVE WE ARE WILLING TO DIE!
THOUGH, I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH, STONE-FACE--
--THAT AIN'T IN THE GAME PLAN FOR US RIGHT NOW!
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND ARE IN DEEP DOO-DOO, 'CAUSE--
--THE WARRIORS ARE BACK!!

THIS IS ALWAYS TO BE MY BANE, THEN, ISN'T IT?
THAT THE TIDAL SWELL OF WHAT IS TO COME--
--WILL ALWAYS FIGHT AGAINST THE UNDERTOW OF THE PAST THAT I TRY TO RECREATE?
MUST I, WHO HAS BEEN FORCED TO LIVE MY YESTERDAYS OVER AND OVER AGAIN--
--FOREVER BE DENIED MY CHANCE TO FIND A SENSE OF USE -- OF PURPOSE -- TO MY USELESS LIFE--
--BY THOSE WHO SEE TOMORROW'S HOPE AS THE GUIDING BEACON OF LIGHT ON THEIR PATH TOWARDS DESTINY?
BUT MOST DEARLY--MOST DEADLY--OF ALL, IS THAT I--
I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF ME!!
OF MY FAILURES, OF MY SORROW, OF MY LONG, SUBSTANCELESS LIFE!
HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!!


KATHWOOM!
WHOA-- RAGE AND DARKIE DOWN IN ONE SHOT!
THE SPHINX'S POWERS ARE TOO GREAT FOR US TO COMBAT AS INDIVIDUALS!
GOOD TH NG HINDBUTT LAD WAS STILL BE NG PROTECTED BY JUST CE'S TEKE SHIELD, OR HE'D BE FRIED DORK R GHT NOW!
WHICH S WHY WE'RE A TEAM, SIL!
AND WHY WE HAVE TO START ACTING LIKE ONE AGAIN.
WE HAVE TO REALLY OPEN IT UP ON TH S GUY--BUT BEFORE WE DO THAT--
--WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THE SURROUNDING AREA S CLEAR OF CIV L ANS!

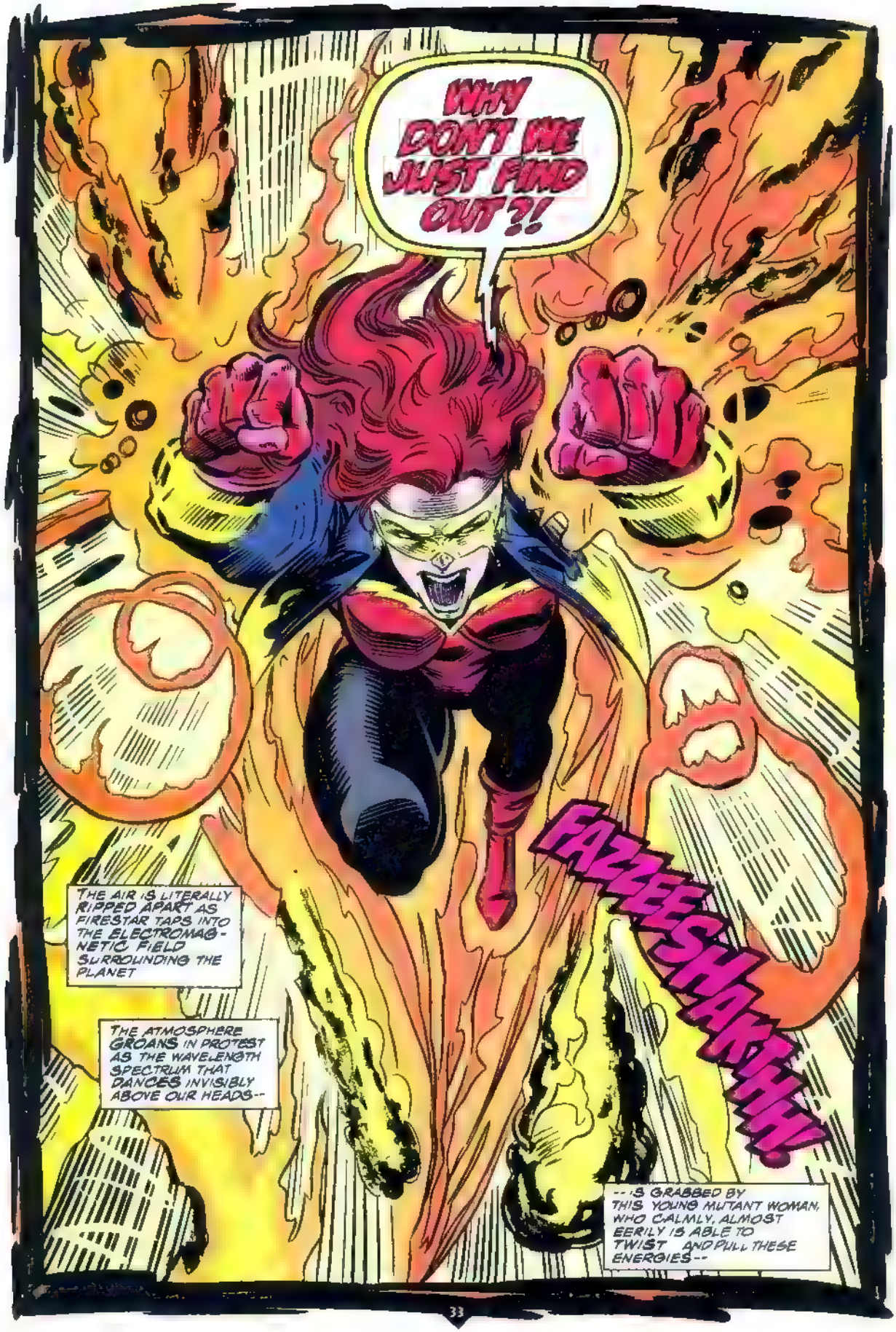
POWER-- WE NEED SOME RECONNAIS-SANCE!
GIVE ME A MILE-WIDE PERIMETER SWEEP!
UHM-- YES, SIR--
FOR OUR HEAVY HITTER TO LET LOOSE, WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME ROOM!
EVERYONE ELSE-- HIT AND RUN TACTICS--
--KEEP SPHINX OFF BALANCE UNTIL WE CAN CUT THE CORD ON FIRESTAR'S APRON STRINGS!!
HIT AND RUN?
HOW DOES ONE HIT STONE AND RUN FROM DESTINY?
HOW DOES ONE
AAARGH!
YOU'RE ALREADY BORING ME, SPHINX, AND I'VE BARELY HAD THE PLEASURE OF GETTING TO KNOW YOU!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE--
--YOU ARE STILL FLESH AND BONE-- YOU STILL HAVE A HEART THAT PUMPS BLOOD THROUGH YOUR VEINS--
--AND WITH MY EVER-INCREASING CONTROL OVER MY ABILITIES--
--IT IS A HEART THAT CAN BE PHASED THROUGH THE INKY BLACKNESS OF THE DARKFORCE DIMENSION!!
JUST BE THANKFUL WE ARE NOT THE KILLING KIND-- OR I WOULD HAVE SHUNTED ALL YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS OUT OF YOUR BODY!

THANKS FOR THAT IMAGE THERE, SIL.
REALLY PRECIATE IT
THWUNFF
KEEP HAMMERING AWAY AT HIM, SPEEDBALL! DON'T GIVE HIM A MINUTE TO GET HIS BEARINGS!
WHO NEEDS A MINUTE WHEN ALL OF TIME IS MINE?
LOOK AT YOU ALL!
--THE VERY POWER OF THE FUNDAMENTAL FORCES OF REALITY ITSELF--
--AND YOU IGNORE THE TRUE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF YOUR POTENTIAL!
IDIOTS! MAGGOTS! FLEAS!
I BRUSH YOU ASIDE LIKE THE INSECTS YOU CHOOSE TO BE!!
DIMENSIONAL INTERFACERS AND TELEKINETICS, KINETIC MOTION MANIPULATORS, AND MORE STILL--

BRUTE FORCE ISN'T GOING TO DO THE TRICK, THRASH!
SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I THINK I CAN GO TOE-TO-TOE W TH HIM, BUT YOU'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO GET PRETTY FAR AWAY, YOU KNOW
I KNOW NITA.
I KNOW, ANGEL.
I KNOW ALL OF THIS, GUYS...
...WHAT, I DON'T KNOW...
...IS WHAT WE'RE GO NG TO DO NEXT!
"AND UNTIL ALEX POWER REPORTS IN, I'M NOT GO NG TO COMMIT TO A COURSE OF ACT ON WHICH S GOING TO FRY EVERY CIVILIAN IN THIS CITY!"
PEOPLE ARE RUNNING AWAY FROM THE KATHEDRAL
THAT'S GOOD, I GUESS, SINCE THEY'RE GETT NG OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE.
BUT BAD...
...IF IT MEANS THEY'RE SO SCARED THEY'RE NOT LOOK NG AT WHERE THEY'RE RUNNING!
I GOT YOU!

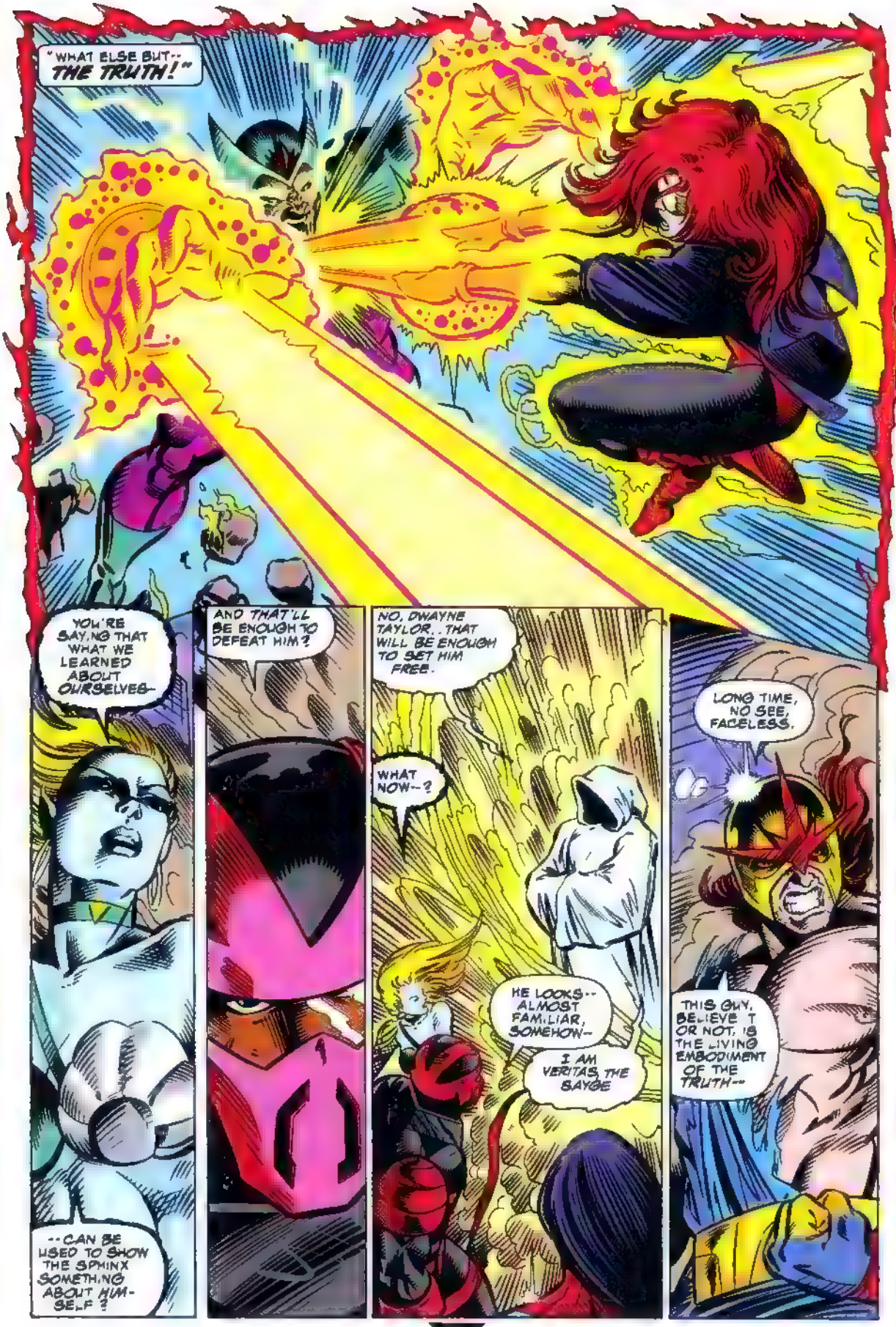
EVERYTHING-- WILL-- BE-- OKAY!
LISTEN TO ME, WHAT AN IDIOT I AM!
I BEEN TO SPACE AND BACK AND LIKE A MORON, I FIGURE THE WAY TO GET SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND YOUR LANGUAGE--
--IS TO SPEAK IT SLOWER AND LOUDER!
DUH! I'M SO NERVOUS PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS IS SCARY.
BUT WHY? I MEAN, I'VE FACED DOWN GALACTUS!
THRASH THOUGHT I WOULD MAKE A GOOD MEMBER OF THE TEAM! AND I WOULD, TOO...
--THOUGH I'LL NEVER FIND OUT, SINCE EVEN IF I DO SURVIVE THIS--
--MY BROTHER AND SISTERS'RE GONNA KILL ME WHEN THEY FIND OUT THAT I KNEW SINCE OUR RECENT ADVENTURE ON KYMELLIA--
--THAT BEING OLDER GIVES ME MORE CONTROL OVER OUR ABILITY TO TRADE POWERS.*
WHAT'S GOING ON ACROSS CAIRO? IT'S CHANGING BACK TO NORMAL!
* SEE POWER PACK HOLIDAY SPECIAL #1. -- ROB
UHM-- ANYONE SPEAK ENGLISH?
I DO-- WHAT IS HAPPENING?
I THINK YOU'RE ALL JUST STARTING TO WAKE UP FROM A VERY BAD DREAM!
AND IT'S UP TO THE NEW WARRIORS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE DREAMER DOESN'T FINISH OFF HIS NIGHTMARE!!

GUYS! EVERYTHING IS STARTING TO CHANGE BACK!
THE FARTHER AWAY YOU GET FROM THIS AREA, THE MORE OBVIOUS IT IS!
WE GOT ABOUT HALF A MILE ALL AROUND US OF THIS FAKE REALITY!
I'M GONNA DIE
THINK THAT'S ENOUGH ROOM?
I THINK IT'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO HEAR!!
SPHINX--!
YOU CALL YOURSELF POWERFUL-- BUT IF YOU ASK ME, YOU'RE YESTERDAY'S NEWS!
SO LET'S FIND OUT HOW YOU DO WHEN YOU COME UP AGAINST THE WAY OF THE FUTURE!
INDEED, CHILD, I HAVE TASTED THE ENERGIES YOU WIELD--
--GROWING BY THE DECADE ACROSS THE SKIES OF THIS MUDBALL PLANET!
AND THOUGH ITS PROPERTIES ARE NOT MINE TO MANIPULATE, I AM QUITE CURIOUS AS TO YOUR ABILITY TO DO SO.
SHOW ME, GIRL-- TEACH AN OLD DOG A NEW TRICK-- HOW PREPARED ARE YOU--
--TO BECOME THE REIGNING POWER OF THIS PLANET?


WHY DON'T WE JUST FIND OUT?!
FAZZEE SHAKTHK!
THE AIR IS LITERALLY RIPPED APART AS FIRESTAR TAPS INTO THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD SURROUNDING THE PLANET
THE ATMOSPHERE GROANS IN PROTEST AS THE WAVELENGTH SPECTRUM THAT DANCES INVISIBLY ABOVE OUR HEADS--
--IS GRABBED BY THIS YOUNG MUTANT WOMAN, WHO CALMLY, ALMOST EERILY IS ABLE TO TWIST AND PULL THESE ENERGIES--

--AND SHOVE THEM DOWN THE SPHINX'S THROAT!
SHAKKATHAKKRAMMMM
I'M USING THE SUITS RADIATION DISPERSAL SYSTEMS TO THEIR MAX!
I DON'T THINK I CAN KEEP IT UP MUCH LONGER!
WELL, UNLESS VANCE CAN WAKE UP AND PROTECT US IN A TEKE FIELD--
--WE'RE ALL GOING TO BECOME ROTTISSERIE SUPER HEROES!
INCREDIBLE! ANGEL COULD PROBABLY BLOW THIS PLANET APART AND HE'S HOLDING OUT AGAINST HER!
HOW MUCH ENERGY DOES THE SPHINX ACTUALLY WIELD?
IT CAN'T BE INFINITE--NOT IF WHAT ALEX SAW IS ACCURATE--
--IF THE CITY AND THE PEOPLE ARE RETURNING TO NORMAL--
--THAT MEANS THE SPHINX IS DRAWING BACK THE KA ENERGY THAT CHANGED THINGS TO BEGIN WITH!
WHY WOULD SOMEONE WHO CAN DRAW ENERGY FROM ALL TIME--
--NEED TO DRAW ANY EXTRA ENERGY AT ALL--MUCH LESS FROM THIS TIME?
MAYBE PERHAPS, BECAUSE ALL OF US REPRESENT BOTH PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY--
--SOMETHING WHICH IS ANALOGOUS ONLY TO THIS TIME?
WHY WOULD THAT THREATEN HIM? HE CAN INCINERATE US WITH THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
INDEED HE CAN, DWAYNE TAYLOR, BUT CAN THE TIMEWORN ONE AS EASILY ERASE THE MEANING OF YOUR VERY EXISTENCES--
--FROM STAINING AND SCARRING HIS VERY SOUL?
AND WHAT MEANING WOULD THAT BE?

JUST WHAT RED SAID BEFORE, GANG..
SUFFERING SHAD -- THANK NEPTUNE HE'S STILL ALIVE.
AND A "BLUE BLAZES" RIGHT BACK ATCHA, CUTIE
GOOD T'SEE WE ALL MADE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE FROM OUR LITTLE TRIPS.
AND THE FACT THAT WE DID MEANS A LOT MORE THAN HOW HARD WE HIT THE SPHINX OR HOW POWERFUL HE IS.
WE WERE SENT ALL OVER TIME -- WE ALL WENT THROUGH WHAT WE DID -- FOR A REASON
AND THAT REASON, THE KEY TO T, WHATEVER IT IS --
-- IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO USE TO FIND THE WAY TO DEFEAT THE SPHINX!
IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED FROM FIGHTING THIS CHOWDERHEAD OVER AND OVER --
-- IS THAT HE'S ALWAYS FIND NG A WAY TO DEFEAT HIMSELF!
LET'S PLAY SIGGY FREUD FOR A MINUTE AND SAY THAT HE WANTS TO BEAT HIMSELF, OKAY?
SO, BY SEND NG US THROUGH TIME, THAT WAS THE SPHINX'S SUBCONSCIOUS WAY --
-- OF LETTING US LEARN WHAT WE NEEDED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO DEFEAT HIM?
AND WHAT DID YOU LEARN THEN, FROM YOUR TRAVAILS?
WHAT ELSE, I MAG NE, THAN THAT WHICH HE FOREVER DENIES HIMSELF?


"WHAT ELSE BUT-- THE TRUTH!"
YOU'RE SAYING THAT WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT OURSELVES--
--CAN BE USED TO SHOW THE SPHINX SOMETHING ABOUT HIMSELF?
AND THAT'LL BE ENOUGH TO DEFEAT HIM?
NO, DWAYNE TAYLOR.. THAT WILL BE ENOUGH TO SET HIM FREE.
WHAT NOW--?
HE LOOKS-- ALMOST FAMILIAR, SOMEHOW--
I AM VERITAS, THE SAYGE
LONG TIME, NO SEE, FACELESS.
THIS GUY, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IS THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE TRUTH--

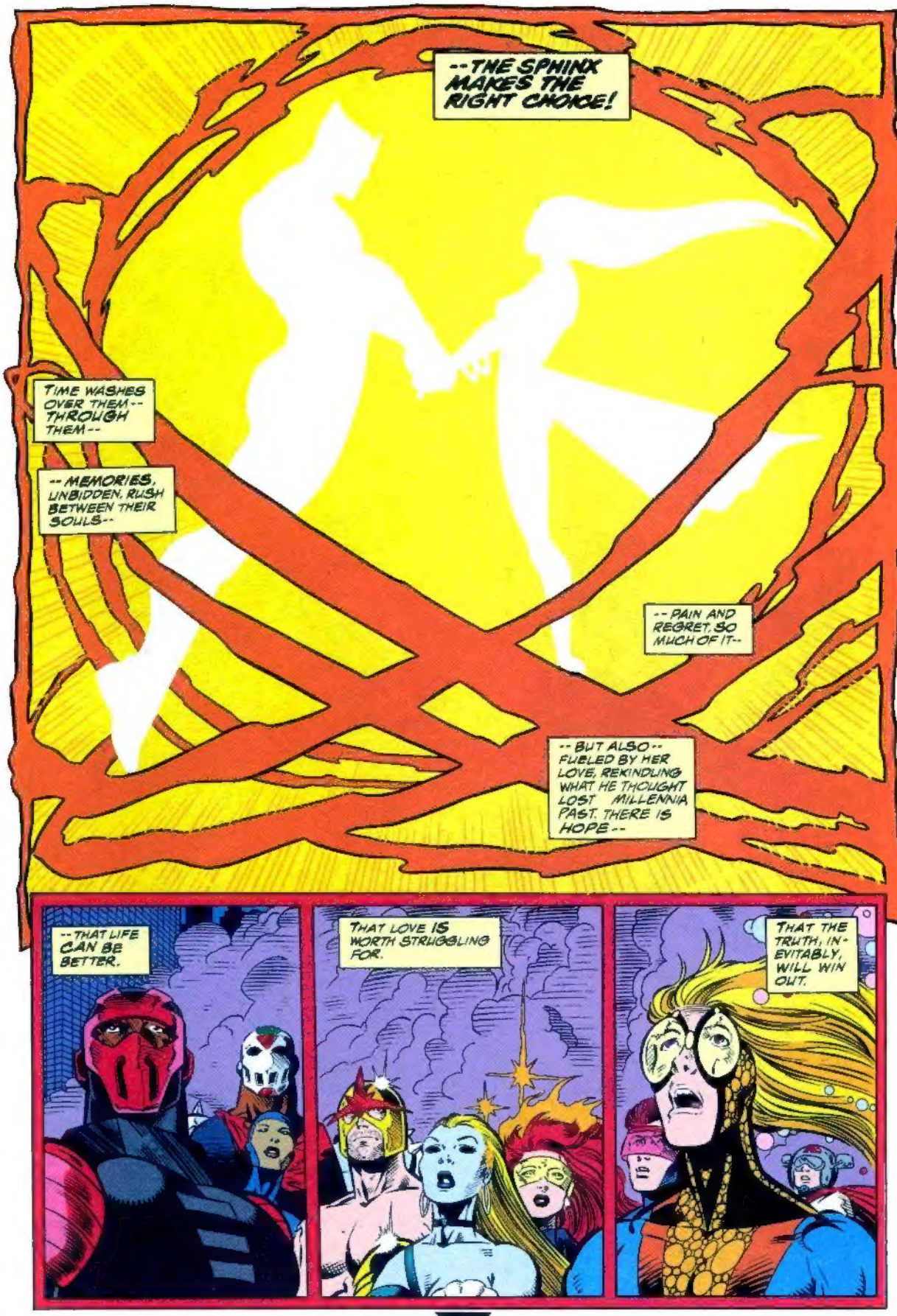
--AND HE ONLY TENDS TO SHOW UP, IT SEEMS, WHEN THE LIGHT OF REASON IS EITHER DAWNIN' ON SOMEONE--OR SETTIN'.
AND IF HE SAYS WE GOTTA SHOW THIS STUBBORN OLD SHMOE THE TRUTH ABOUT HIMSELF, BY SHOWING HIM THE TRUTH ABOUT US--
--THEN THAT'S WHAT WE GOTTA DO, FOLKS!
BUT UNLESS SOMEONES GOT ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS, THE ONLY WAY TO KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO STONE-FACE--
--IS TO KNOCK HIM AROUND!
THWUMKOOM!
THRASHSH
HUMPH
WELL MET, RICHARD.
... YOU HAVE GROWN SO OVER SUCH A SHORT TIME...
HAS HE NOT, TIMEWORN ONE?
INDEED, SO UNLIKE YOURSELF...
NOT YOU AGAIN...

ME, ALWAYS, YOU EMBITTERED, BLIND FOOL!
I AM THE TRUTH!
YOU CAN DENY ME FOR AS LONG AS YOU WOULD LIKE, ANATH-NA MUT--
YOU KNOW-- MY FIRST NAME-- UNSPOKEN FOR SO MANY YEARS--?
A SPARK LIGHTS INSIDE THE DARKENED CLOSETS OF ANATH-NA MUT'S SOUL.
HE HEARS THE VOICES OF THESE CHILDREN WITHIN HIM, THESE COURAGEOUS NEW WARRIORS--
--AND THE SPARK IS FANNED TO A FLAME!
FIRES OF PASSION AND HOPE, REASON AND REVELATION--
--HE SEES INSIDE OF THEM SUCH A NOBLE DESIRE FOR THE COMMON GOOD--
--AND HE FEELS THAT GLOW OF POTENTIAL INSIDE OF HIMSELF, ONLY BUT A MOMENT--
-- IT IS LIKE A LONG-LOST FRIEND WITHIN HIM, BECAUSE IT IS THE VOICE OF THE FUTURE--

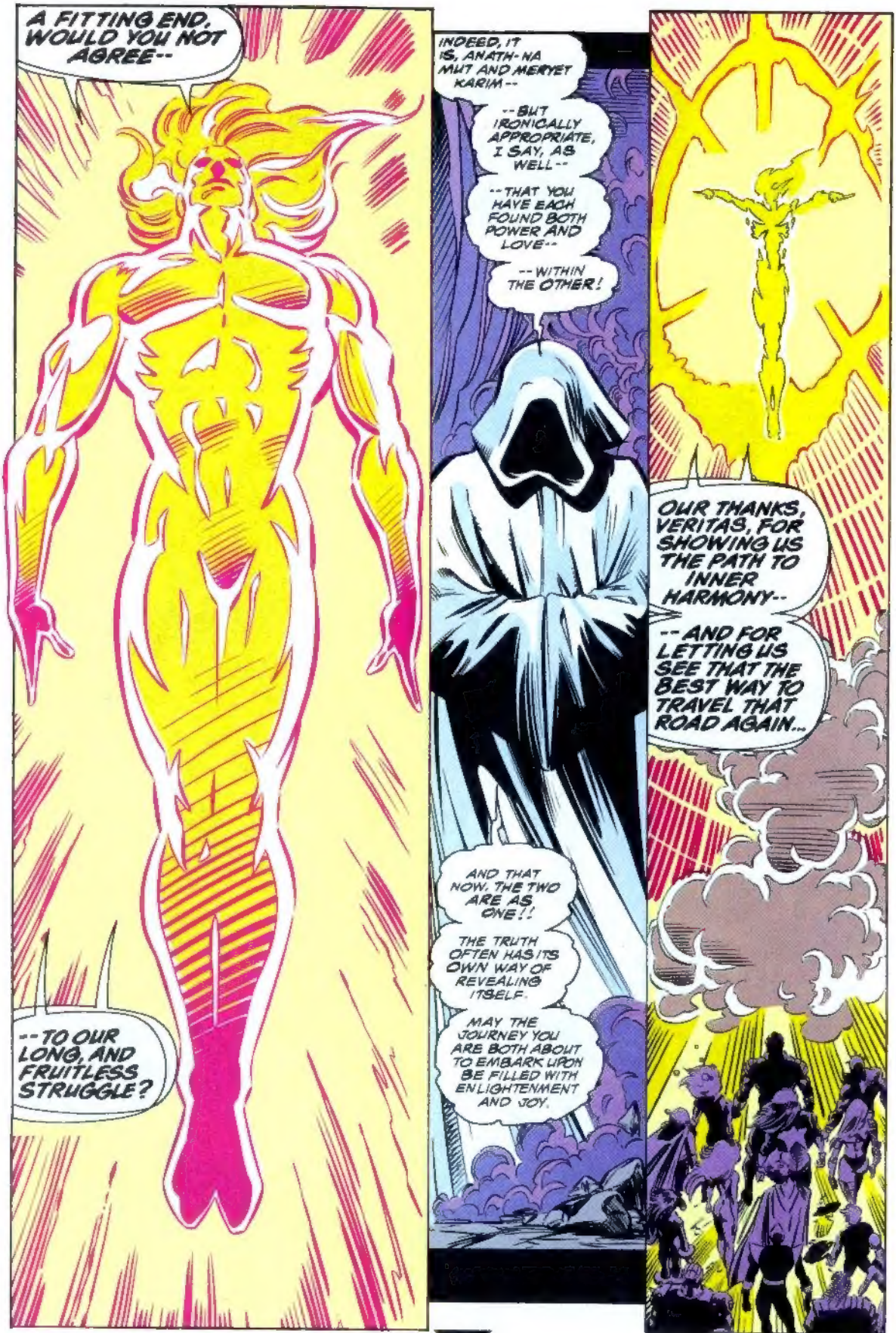
AND MORE STILL, SPHINX-- I KNOW ALSO, THAT WITHIN THESE CHILDREN LIES THE KEY TO YOUR OWN LOST SOUL'S SALVATION!
THOUGH I PREFER TO ENLIGHTEN RATHER THAN ENFORCE, ANCIENT ONE--
-- FOR THE SAKE OF THESE VALIANT YOUTHS, FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY--
-- AND ESPECIALLY, WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO BELIEVE IT OR NOT --
--FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR OWN IMMORTAL REDEMPTION--
--I WILL SHOW YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF!!
-- A VOICE HE HAD HEARD ONCE AS WELL, SPOKEN THROUGH YOUNG LIPS IN A WORLD SEEN THROUGH YOUNG EYES--
--WHEN HE WAS THEIR AGE, WHEN HE HAD THEIR PASSIONS, THEIR HOPES...AND THEIR POTENTIAL.
NOW, WITH THE WARRIORS SERVING AS A MIRROR TO HIS OWN WANTING SPIRIT WHEN HE LOOKS WITHIN HIMSELF--
-- THE MAN WHO HAS CALLED HIMSELF THE SPHINX--
-- THIS IMMORTAL BEING WHO HAS BEEN AN ETERNAL ROCK OF HARDENED INDIFFERENCE --
-- WHAT DOES HE SEE ?

NOT NEARLY AS MUCH AS A THOUSAND LIFETIMES SHOULD BRING--
--HAD SOMEONE ACTUALLY CHOSEN TO LIVE THEM, RATHER THAN LIVED TO ENDURE THEM
IT IS DONE.
YOU HAVE DEFEATED ME, WOMAN
THROUGH MISBEGOTTEN ZEAL OVER THE LOVE OF POWER.
--DID I FAIL ONCE AGAIN TO ANTICIPATE THE POWER OF LOVE
I AM NOTH NO.
I HAVE BEEN NOTHING FOR LONGER THAN TIME ITSELF
YOU HAVE DEFEATED ME
NO, ANATH-NA MUT..
YOU HAVE DEFEATED YOURSELF.

AS FOR MYSELF?
I HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT LOVE A MEMORY.
OF A MAN WHO COULD HAVE BEEN
A BEAUTIFUL LIFE WE COULD HAVE HAD
AND A MAN WHO COULD STILL BE!
A LIFE WE COULD STILL HAVE!
THE CHOICE AS IT HAS EVER BEEN, IS YOURS TO MAKE, ANATH-NA
TIME AND TIME AGAIN, HE HAS MADE THE WRONG DECISIONS IN HIS LONG LIFE
TIME AND TIME AGAIN HAS HE COME TO REGRET THEM
BUT HIS CHOICES ARE NOT PRE-DESTINED. HIS LIFE IS NOT AN ENDLESS LOOP OF NEVER-ENDING AGONY.
HE CAN MAKE NEW DECISIONS FOR HIMSELF, CAN'T HE?
AND TODAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME...


--THE SPHINX MAKES THE RIGHT CHOICE!
TIME WASHES OVER THEM-- THROUGH THEM--
--MEMORIES, UNBIDDEN, RUSH BETWEEN THEIR SOULS--
--PAIN AND REGRET. SO MUCH OF IT--
--BUT ALSO-- FUELED BY HER LOVE, REKINDLING WHAT HE THOUGHT LOST MILLENNIA PAST. THERE IS HOPE--
--THAT LIFE CAN BE BETTER.
THAT LOVE IS WORTH STRUGGLING FOR.
THAT THE TRUTH, INEVITABLY, WILL WIN OUT.

AND ACROSS THE WORLD--
--PEOPLE THINK, BUT FOR AN INSTANT--
--ABOUT SOMEONE THEY LOVE--
--AND THEY WHISPER TO THEMSELVES--
--THAT TONIGHT, THEY WILL HOLD THAT PERSON--
--AND TELL THEM HOW MUCH THEY CARE.
YEAH, WELL, I LOVE ALLA YOUSE, TOO--
--BUT BEFORE YOU YAHOOS SEND ME A CANDYGRAM--
--CAN SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME WHAT IN THE NAME OF GALACTUS'S UNDERWEAR IS GOING ON IN EGYPT RIGHT NOW?
NO SMOKING
ALL WE CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN, COLONEL FURY--
"--IS THAT IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL!"
HOLY HERMAPHRODITE!


A FITTING END, WOULD YOU NOT AGREE--
--TO OUR LONG, AND FRUITLESS STRUGGLE?
INDEED, IT IS, ANATH-NA MUT AND MERYET KARIM--
--BUT IRONICALLY APPROPRIATE, I SAY, AS WELL--
--THAT YOU HAVE EACH FOUND BOTH POWER AND LOVE--
--WITHIN THE OTHER!
AND THAT NOW, THE TWO ARE AS ONE!!
THE TRUTH OFTEN HAS ITS OWN WAY OF REVEALING ITSELF.
MAY THE JOURNEY YOU ARE BOTH ABOUT TO EMBARK UPON BE FILLED WITH ENLIGHTENMENT AND JOY.
OUR THANKS, VERITAS, FOR SHOWING US THE PATH TO INNER HARMONY--
--AND FOR LETTING US SEE THAT THE BEST WAY TO TRAVEL THAT ROAD AGAIN...

... IS TO DO SO TOGETHER!
THEY'RE LEAVING? BUT WHERE ARE THEY--?
BACK TO WHERE THEY BEGAN, NITA PRENTISS.
TO RELIVE THEIR LIVES OVER... AS THEY HAVE, TIME AND TIME AGAIN--
-- BUT THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, THIS TIME, WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE THEM RIGHT!
I TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU, BUT KNOW, THAT I AM FOREVER AT YOUR CALL--
-- ALL YOU NEED TO DO TO FIND ME... IS TO LOOK WITHIN...
...YOURSELVES...
WE DID IT!
AFTER EVERYTHING WE ALL WENT THROUGH, WE ACTUALLY WON!
AND I NEVER EVEN HAD TO HIT ANYONE TO DO IT!
DON'T SOUND LIKE THAT MIFFS YOU OR NUTHIN', THRASH!
BUT BEFORE WE ALL BREAK OUT THE MEISTER BRAU, LET'S DEAL WITH ONE MORE BONE-HARD TRUTH--
--NAMELY--
-- WHAT THE HECK ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH FOURTEEN NEW WARRIORS?!
IT ALL BEGINS AGAIN...